



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

December 16, 2020

Jaclyn Hotard
St. John the Baptist Parish President
1811 W. Airline Highway
LaPlace, Louisiana 70068

RE: Extension of EPA's Continuous Air Monitoring Program near the Denka Performance Elastomer Facility in LaPlace, La.

Dear Parish President Hotard,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thanks you and your staff for your support of EPA's air quality monitoring efforts in LaPlace, LA, including both the 2016-2020 community ambient air monitoring program and our ongoing Continuous Air Monitoring Program. This letter is to provide an update on our Continuous Air Monitoring Program and notify you that EPA will be extending the Continuous Air Monitoring Program for an additional 60 days to cover the rescheduled turn-around at the plant. This has been one of our original objectives, but the plant postponed their November 2020 turn-around until late January 2021.

As you are aware, EPA has been working with the community on issues related to air contaminants for many years and began a Continuous Air Monitoring Program in March 2020. The Continuous Air Monitoring Program was designed to help EPA understand the magnitude and frequency of occasional, but recurring, elevated chloroprene measurements or "spikes" that, as demonstrated by the Community Ambient Air Monitoring data, contribute significantly to the long-term chloroprene averages. Another objective of the Continuous Air Monitoring Program is to help identify unknown or under-characterized emissions sources or activities at the Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC facility.

The Initial Phase of the project lasted longer than initially anticipated—about six months—as a result of instrumentation quality checks and assessment, and refining of the triggering methodology used for canister sampling. The Operational Phase began in September 2020 and was scheduled to operate until December 2020, barring any unforeseen circumstances. However, to collect data during the plant turn-around now scheduled in late January 2021, we are extending the Operational Phase of the Continuous Air Monitoring Program for approximately 60 days.

The Initial Phase of the project resulted in the collection of 55 samples with an overall chloroprene average of $0.408 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. As of October 29, 2020, the Operational Phase of the project resulted in the collection of 30 samples with an overall chloroprene average of $2.450 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

EPA will continue posting chloroprene sampling results from the Continuous Air Monitoring Program to the Denka Air Monitoring Data Summary Page: <https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary>.

Thank you again for your support in these efforts to monitor air quality in LaPlace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken McQueen".

Ken McQueen
Regional Administrator